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scientific spirit of the plan of investigation. The final figures set down in the last table would have the highest authority, if the systematic corrections of the original star-places were revised and the work repeated.

E. S. H.

ADDENDUM TO LUDLAM'S ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS (1769).

In 1769, the Reverend W. LUDLAM printed a volume, whose title-page is as follows:

Astronomical observations made in St. John's College, Cambridge, in the years 1767 and 1768, with an account of several astronomical instruments, by the Reverend Mr. LUDLAM. Printed by J. ARCHDEACON, printer to the University, for T. CADELL, successor to Mr. MILLER, in the Strand, London, MDCCLXIX.

The copy of this work in the library of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, which I used in the years 1871-2, is full of manuscript corrections, and it contains also a manuscript note, in which the Reverend author sets forth his grievances. I have thought that this should not be unknown, and I copy it below, with the reminder that a considerable part of the income of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was and still is derived from their exclusive privilege of printing the Authorized Version of the Bible. E. S. H.

*MANUSCRIPT NOTE BY THE AUTHOR.*

"The university printer being very ignorant, and the press meanly provided with types for books of science, there are many inaccuracies in the printing of this book; some of which are corrected with the pen.

"The gainful monopoly of printing bibles and common prayer books, is the only object that engages the attention of the University officers and their greedy printer.

W. L."

THOLLON'S MAP OF THE SOLAR SPECTRUM.

The third volume of the *Annals of the Observatory of Nice* is accompanied by a magnificent folio-atlas, containing a map of the solar spectrum. This atlas is the fruit of some six or seven years' work by M. THOLLON; and, after his death, M. PERROTIN, the Director of the observatory of Nice, employed parts of three or more years in completing it for publication. It is not possible to give in this place an adequate review of this great work. An excellent short

account of it is given in *Knowledge*, for Sept. 1, 1890. The observatory of Nice was founded by M. BISCHOFFSHEIM of Paris, and he has already spent more than \$1,000,000 for buildings and instruments. Among the latter is the great telescope of 30 inches aperture. The publication referred to is, I believe, also made at M. BISCHOFFSHEIM's private cost. A brief description of the Nice Observatory will probably be printed in these *Publications* during the current year.

E. S. H.

#### SATELLITES OF MARS, 1890.

During the present opposition the maximum theoretical brightness of the satellites of *Mars* was 1.15, if their brightness at mean opposition be taken as 1.00.\*

Their brightness at discovery was 1.91. Under good circumstances they have been readily visible in the same field of view with *Mars*, when the planet was not hidden by an occulting bar. They have been several times re-discovered by visitors who were looking at the planet, and who did not know of their existence.

During April and May two observers made a conscientious search for new satellites. The weather conditions were rather unfavorable. The general conclusions reached were that no new satellite exists within the orbit of *Deimos*, which is anything like as bright as one-fourth the brightness of that satellite. It is possible, though not very likely, that so faint a satellite as this may exist outside of *Deimos'* orbit, or within that of *Phobos*. E. S. H. AND J. M. S.

#### SOLAR PARALLAX FROM THE TRANSIT OF VENUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF 1882.

Professor HARKNESS, U. S. N., reports that the photographs of the last transit of *Venus* (more than 1400 photographs being available) lead to the following value of the solar parallax;  $\pi = 8''.842 \pm 0''.0188$ . With 3963.296 miles as the equatorial radius of the earth, the resulting mean distance of the sun is 92,455,000 miles, with a probable error of 123,400 miles.—(From the *Report of the Supt. U. S. Naval Observatory*, June 30, 1889.)

#### SPECTROGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS OF *SPICA* AT POTSDAM.

In No. 2995 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* Professor H. C. VOGEL considers at length all the photographs of the spectrum of *a Virginis* which have been made at Potsdam, and finds that they

\* See a paper by Mr. KEELER, in the *Astronomical Journal*, Vol. VIII, p. 74.